

Truancy

Introduction and Definitions

The District's policy on student truancy shall stress early prevention and inquiry leading to remediation of absences rather than imposition of punitive measures for students. Referral to legal authorities normally shall be made only when local resources are exhausted.

A student is truant if he/she is absent from school on a day when the student definitely should have been in school as determined by the administration in conjunction with the parent/guardian. Truancy is a serious offense and will be counted as one cut from each class missed.

A student, ages five to eighteen inclusive, who has four unexcused absences in any one month, or ten unexcused absences in one school year shall be considered truant.

Remediation of Truancy

School personnel shall seek cooperation from parents or other persons having guardianship of such child and assist them in remedying and preventing truancy. The Superintendent of Schools shall develop regulations which will detail the following school district obligations under the District's truancy policy:

Notify parents annually of their obligations under the attendance policy.

Obtain contact information for emergency record cards or other means of contacting parents or other persons having guardianship of the child during the school day.

Establish a system to monitor student attendance.

Make a reasonable effort to notify parents or other persons having guardianship of the child when a child does not arrive at school and there has been no previous approval of other indication which indicates parents are aware of the absence. (Note: Persons who in good faith give or fail to give no practice pursuant to this section shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, which might otherwise be incurred or imposed and shall have immunity with respect to any judicial proceeding which results from such notice or failure to give notice.)

Identify a student as "truant" when the student accumulates four unexcused absences in any month or ten in a school year.

Appropriate school staff meet with parents of a child identified as truant, to review and evaluate the situation, within ten days of such designation.

Students so identified may be subject to:

- (a) retention in the same grade to acquire necessary skills for promotion.
- (b) a requirement to complete a summer school program successfully before being promoted to the next grade.
- (c) loss of credit.

File a written complaint with the Superior Court alleging that the acts or omissions of a child identified as “truant” are such that the student’s family is a “family with service needs,” if the parent or other person having guardianship of the child fails to attend the required meeting with appropriate school personnel to evaluate why the child is truant or fails to cooperate with the school in trying to solve the child’s truancy problem.

Provide coordination of services and refer “truants” to community agencies which provide family services.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-198a Policies and procedures concerning truants 9as amended by
PA 00-157)

10 199 through 10 202 Attendance, truancy in general. (Revised 1995
- PA 95-304)

10-202e-f policy on dropout prevention and grant program.
10 221(b) Board of education to prescribe rules.
Campbell v New Milford, 193 Conn 93 (1984).
10-184 Duties of parents as amended by PA 98-243 and PA 00-157.
10-185 Penalty
10-199 through 10-202 Attendance, truancy – in general.

(cf. 5142 Student Safety)
(cf. 5113.2 Truancy)
(cf. 6163 Released Time)

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PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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